GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3899
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2005
JARAWAS TRIBE OF ANDMAN AND NICOBAR
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a Policy of not bringing Jarawas, a heritage tribe of Andaman into the main stream against their conscious will,

(b) if so, the objectives and details of this Policy; and

(c) the steps being taken to remove all the encroachments from the Jarawa territory and to ensure that such encroachments do not take place in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH)

(a) Yes sir. Ministry of Home Affairs have formulated a policy on the Jarawas tribe of Andaman Islands.

(b) The objectives and other details of the Policy are placed at Annexure-I.

(c) The steps taken by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration to remove all the encroachments from the Jarawa territory and to ensure that such encroachments do not take place in future are placed at Annexure-II.

ANNEXURE TO THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3899

Annexure-i

Policy on Jarawa Tribe of Andaman Islands

Major objectives are :

(i) To protect the Jarawas from harmful effects of exposure and contact with the outside world while they are not physically, socially and culturally prepared for such interface;

(ii) To preserve the social organization, mode of subsistence and cultural identity of the Jarawa community;

With the above objectives in view, the Government have framed certain strategies/guidelines for the protection and welfare of the Jarwas, some of the salient guidelines are as follow:

(i) A policy of maximum autonomy to the larawas with minimum and regulated intervention shall be adopted by the Government towards the Jarawas. There shall be no intervention in cultural life of the Jarawas and they will be left at liberty to develop according to their own genius and at their own pace. No attempts to bring them to the mainstream society against their conscious will or to rehabilitate them in separate islands/locations at this stage of their social development will be made.

(ii) The notified Jarawa territory shall be fully and effectively demarcated and no attempt to curtail, reduce or to acquire land therefrom shall be made.

(iii) All encroachments in the Jarawa territory shall be removed on priority basis.

(iv) Periodic health survey of the Jarawa community will be organized through a Standing Team of health professionals.

(v) The traditional knowledge of Jarawas including ethno-medicine shall be preserved and documented.

(vi) Periodic nutritional and food security surveys shall be conducted to ensure that there is adequate provision of food resources to the Jarawas and that there is no fall in nutritional standards.

(vii) The Executive Council of AAJVS assisted by experts and persons having knowledge and experience in tribal affairs under the Chairmanship of Lt. Governor will enforce and monitor implementation of the policy.

ANNEXURE TO THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3899

Annexure-ll

Steps taken by A&N Administration in the recent past to remove all the encroachments from the Jarawa territory and to prevent such encroachments in future.

(i) Exclusive natural resources base i.e. Jarawa forest area has been increased from 847 sq. kms to 1028 sq. kms.

(ii) Exclusive marine resource base has also been increased by declaring coastal water up to 5 km from high tide mark as tribal reserve.

(iii) Jarawa tribal reserve has been carved out taking into account natural features like hill ranges peaks, creeks etc as far as practicable so that boundaries of the reserve area is intelligible to all concerned thereby trespass into reserve area is avoided.

(iv) Andaman Trunk Road belt has been decreased from 200 meters on either side of the tar road to only 30 meters from the centre line of the road on either side.

(v) Police, trained anthropologists and other welfare functionaries are pressed intc? service for regular patrolling at vulnerable places to prevent unauthorized contact of non-tribals with the Jarawas.

(vi) Sites of Police, Forest and PWD are reviewed and rationalized by relocating some of them as far away as possible from the vicinity of Jarawa territory to avoid non-Jarawa`s proximity to Jarawas.